



HANDOUTS

Judicial Dist. & Judicial Resources Study Committee

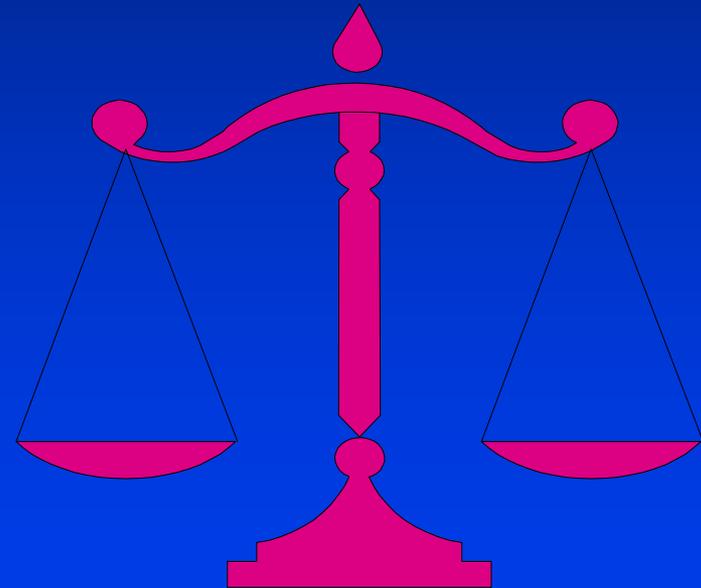
July 1, 2004

Iowa Court System Presentation
prepared by Jennifer Acton, LSA, Fiscal Services

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Iowa Court System



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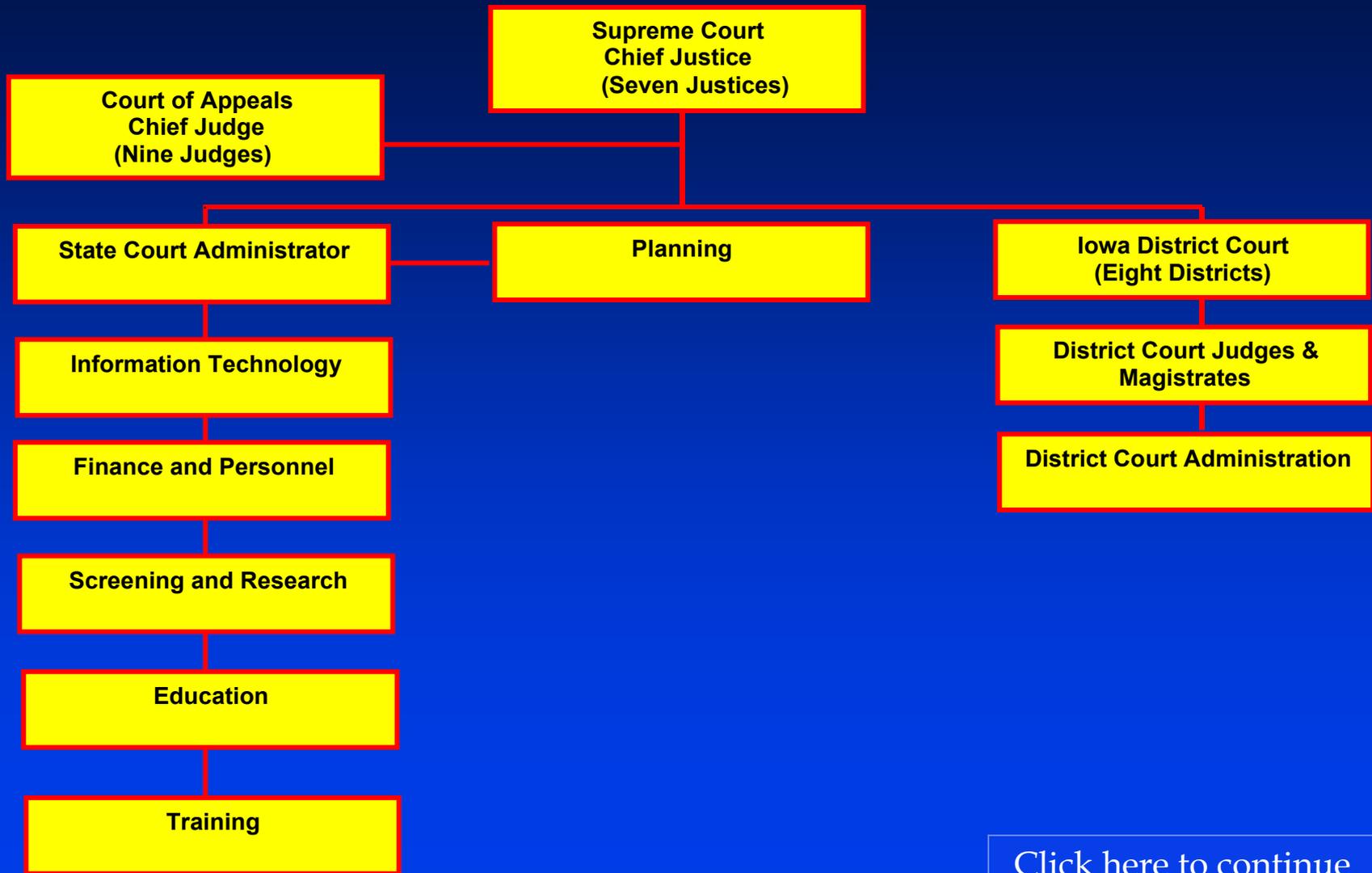
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Iowa Court System

- ◆ In 1983, Iowa's Court System was reorganized. The Iowa Court System went from being funded by the counties to being funded by the State. County court employees are on the State payroll but each county courthouse is still maintained at the county level.
- ◆ The Judicial Branch's current organizational structure includes: Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and the Iowa District Court.
- ◆ Beginning in FY 2000, the Iowa Court of Appeals was increased from six to nine judges and the Iowa Supreme Court was reduced from nine to seven justices through attrition.

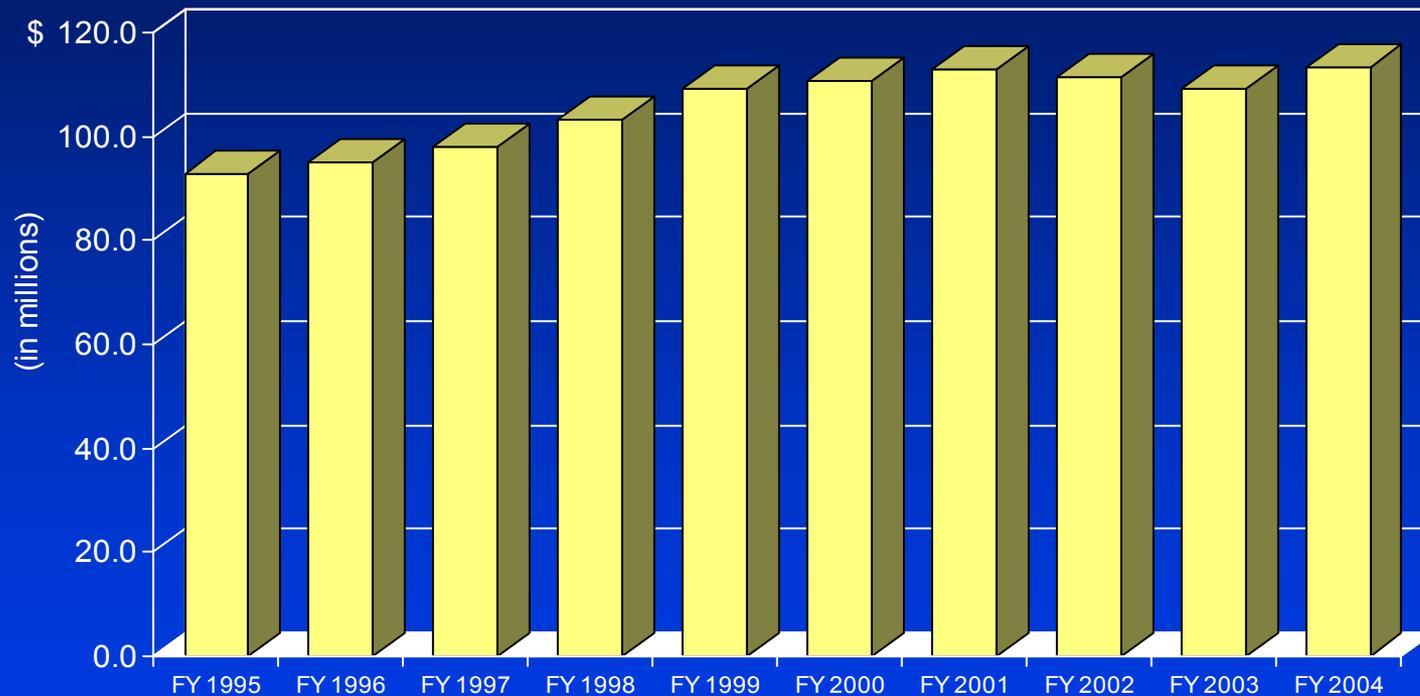
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Iowa's Court Structure



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Iowa Court System Expenditures



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Court Generated Revenue

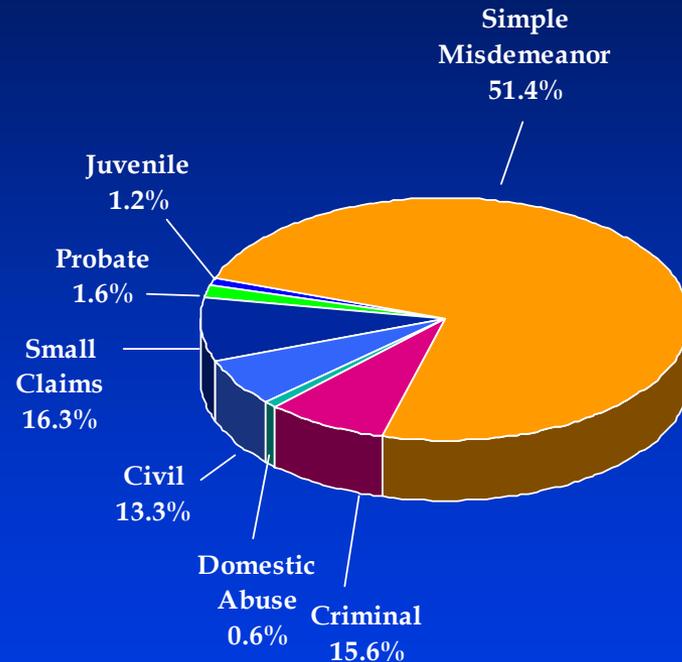


- ◆ In FY 2002, the majority of the \$83.0 million collected from fines and fees went into the State General Fund.
- ◆ The remainder of the money was deposited into other State funds such as the Prison Infrastructure Fund, the Road Use Tax Fund, and the Court Technology and Modernization Fund.
- ◆ In FY 2002, \$9.5 million collected from fines and fees went to counties and cities.

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2002 Major Case Filings

Simple Misdemeanors	783,314
Criminal	87,921
Domestic Abuse	6,280
Civil	69,335
Small Claims	89,171
Probate	17,019
Juvenile	12,329
TOTAL	<u><u>1,065,369</u></u>

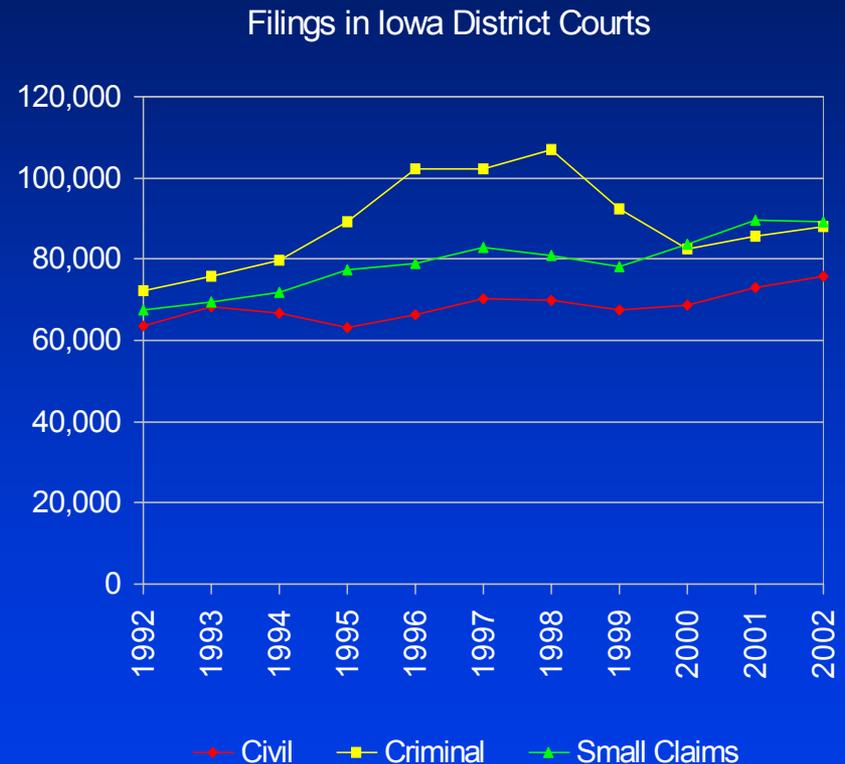


Does not include 7,971 hospitalization and commitment hearings, 3,379 civil infractions, and 1,924 petitions for termination of parental rights.

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Historical Case Filings

- ◆ Between 1992 and 2002:
 - ❖ Civil filings increased by 19.3%.
 - ❖ Criminal filings increased by 21.7%.
 - ❖ Small claims increased by 31.9%.



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Iowa Supreme Court

- ◆ The Supreme Court reviews and decides cases appealed from the Iowa District Court, exercises power over lower courts, and transfers appellate cases to the Court of Appeals.
- ◆ In 2002, 57.0% of the formal opinions from the Supreme Court affirmed the trial court, 30.0% reversed, and 13.0% had a mixed result.

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Court of Appeals



- ◆ The Court of Appeals reviews and decides appeals from the Iowa District Court as assigned by the Supreme Court.
- ◆ For both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, filings from 2001 to 2002 at the appellate level have increased by 2.7% (2,074 to 2,129); depositions have increased 5.6% (2,210 to 2,333).
- ◆ The Court of Appeals affirmed 78.0% of its cases, modified 13.0%, and reversed 9.0%.

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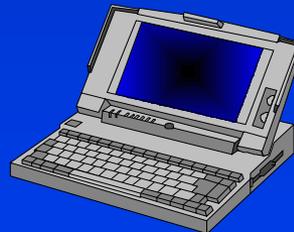
State Court Administration

There are 134 employees in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and State Court Administration. State Court Administration implements and oversees all Judicial Branch policies, provides fiscal and personnel management, screens appeals, and assists with the appellate review process.

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Iowa's Court Information System

Iowa's Court Information System (ICIS) is a computerized information system which is designed to support all aspects of Appellate and District Court administration including accounting and case management. The Court is looking at implementing ICIS II which would upgrade the current ICIS system making it more user friendly.



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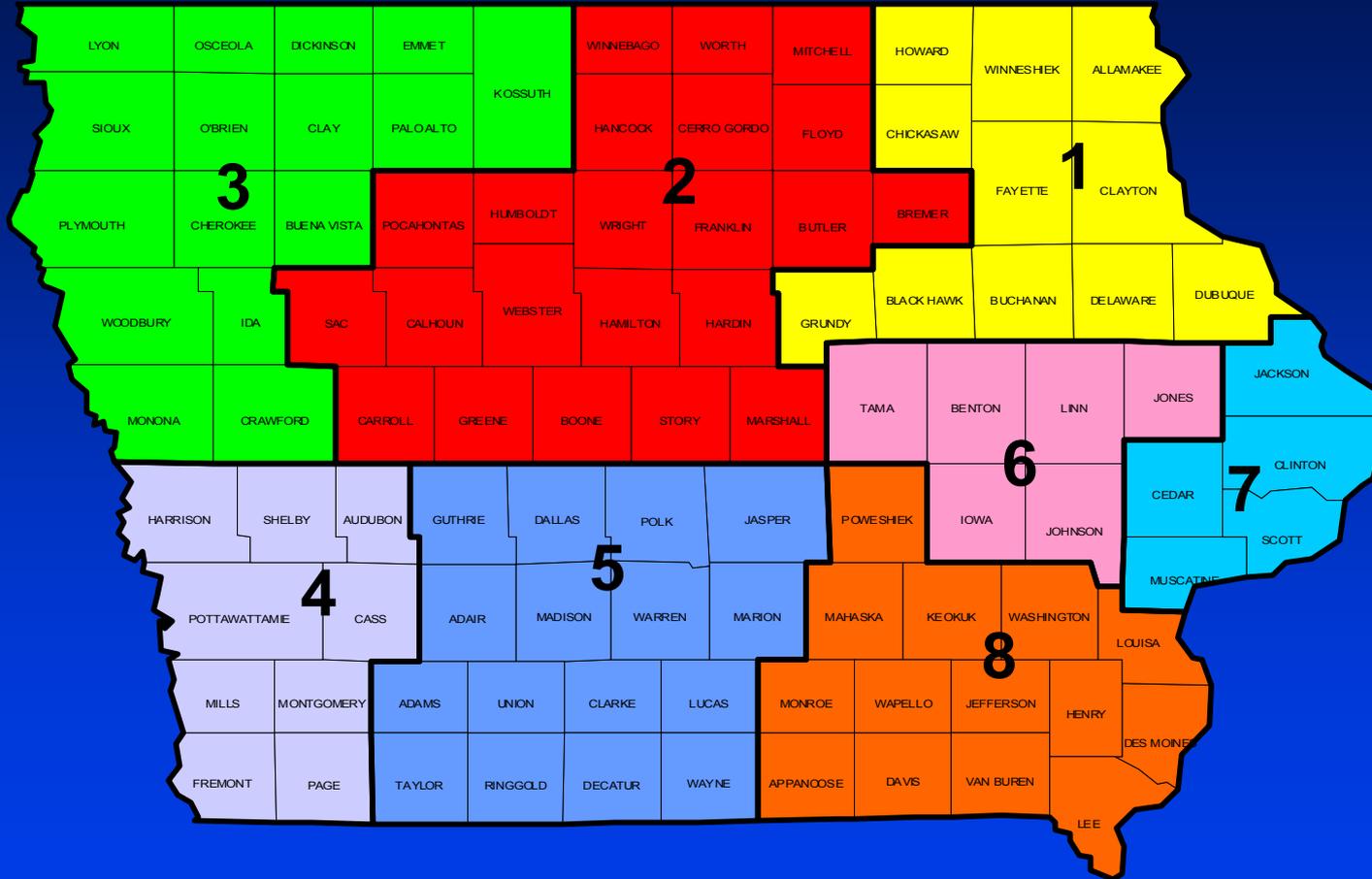
District Court Services



- ◆ The Iowa Supreme Court ordered Clerk of Court offices to resume regular public hours beginning October 1, 2003. Approximately 62 offices had been operating with reduced public hours. The Chief Judge of a district can still approve reduced hours for exceptional circumstances. Otherwise, Court offices are to be open between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.
- ◆ There are 15 Counties that are sharing a Clerk of Court. They are Allamakee, Cedar, Clarke, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton, Jackson, Jones, Kossuth, Marion, Mills, Mitchell, Monona, Sioux, and Worth. Adair, Lee and Scott Counties have acting Clerks of Court.

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Current Iowa Judicial Districts



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Judicial District and Judicial Resources Study Committee

- ◆ A 31-member study committee has been established to study the Judicial Branch. The Judicial Districts have not been re-organized since 1972 when the number was reduced from 18 to 8. The committee will submit a report to the General Assembly by December 15, 2003.
- ◆ This Committee has been approved by Legislative Council to meet six times. The Committee meeting will be in December.

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- ◆ This information has been provided to answer questions regarding the Iowa Court System.
- ◆ Copies of the Topic Presentations are available from the Legislative Services Agency or by accessing the web site at:
[http//staffweb.legis.state.ia.us/lfb](http://staffweb.legis.state.ia.us/lfb).
- ◆ If you have any further questions, please call or e-mail:



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